

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
HUMINT Committee

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

HC 83-168

29 SEP 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Julian Nall
National Intelligence Officer for S&T

FROM:

Chairman, HUMINT Committee

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SUBJECT: STIC-HUMINT Committee Report: The Processing
of Overtly Collected S&T Information*Dear Julian:*

1. I am enclosing a copy of the report for your review, as discussed over luncheon. Since we talked, however, I have concluded that we should focus specifically on whether the technical recommendations remain valid for this rapidly changing field. In other words, the gestation period for this report has been so long that some of the recommendations may have been overtaken by events while other new problems may not have been addressed at all.

2. In addition, what is needed for intelligent DCI examination is an idea of what specific operational steps are likely to be needed. Some kind of an operational blueprint, even provisional, would seem an essential element of our presentation to Mr. McMahon.

3. Finally, as Eloise points out, the managerial aspects for a steering group headed by a senior officer creates the danger of additional layering, a point which I understand the DCI has stressed recently. Our Committee's charter is sufficient to execute these recommendations together with STIC, so why not use it?

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4. You will undoubtedly have your own thoughts on this whole matter and the foregoing is, of course, not meant to prejudge anything you might have to say. What we need to be sure about is that we move expeditiously to meet the Off-site Conference's expressed objective in a practical, rational and streamlined fashion, making better use of existing resources and absolutely minimizing any additional bureaucratic structures. The personal cooperation of all concerned elements is equally essential and after you have examined this report, we might want to consider convening the whole HUMINT Committee to be briefed on it and to provide its own observations and approval.



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Att: a/s

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Collected S&T Information

Distribution: HC 83-168

Orig - Dr. Julian Nall, NIO/S&T

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PREFACE

Scientific and technical analysts draw heavily on overtly collected information to produce finished intelligence. Trends in the last few years have tended to increase the importance of the overt collection of S&T intelligence, particularly in estimates of future activity where information from national technical means is not sufficient. The Intelligence Community, however, is not well organized for processing* the bulk of overt S&T information which is derived from open sources. This is in sharp contrast with processing of PHOTINT, SIGINT, nuclear intelligence information and, in many cases, other overt S&T information reported in standard IR formats. [REDACTED]

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In recognition of the need for improvement in overt S&T collection, the Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee (STIC) published a White Paper. The Collection of Overt S&T Intelligence in the 1979 Paper noted that while the potential for overt collection is high, this potential was not yet being realized, in part because of unexploited opportunities or underutilized collection capabilities, as well as a number of problems in the processing of S&T information subsequent to its collection. These problems are being exacerbated by the fact that the huge volume of overt information already available is growing rapidly. Some analysts believe that open source information has a relatively low intelligence content. To extract intelligence of value, great volumes of material must be surveyed. There is a tendency, therefore, to concentrate on sources of information of higher intelligence content, whose relevancy to immediate problems is more evident, and whose exploitation requires less work. [REDACTED]

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The White Paper pointed to a need to improve interaction among the collectors, processors and users of overtly collected information, beginning with a careful look at the methods now being employed to process this information for use by the analyst and to assess the adequacy of these methods, as well as to explore novel or more efficient methods of processing the information. [REDACTED]

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*For the purpose of this study "processing" is defined as a series of actions taken with information from the time it is collected until it first becomes available to the S&T intelligence analyst.

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In order to accomplish these objectives and as a logical follow-up to the STIC White Paper on Collection, the STIC and the HUMINT Committees in 1979 formed a Working Group to study the capabilities of the Intelligence Community, the rest of the US Government, and commercial organizations both domestic and foreign to process overtly collected information on foreign scientific and technological developments. [redacted]

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This report is the result of the Working Group's comprehensive review of all phases of processing, analysts' usage, processing requirement and future needs. To develop their findings and recommendations, Working Group members and contractor representatives investigated the current capabilities of the Intelligence Community (IC) and other S&T information processing systems and services, conducted two surveys of S&T intelligence analysts to determine analyst requirements for and problems with processing of overtly collected information, and identified needed improvements in current information processing. [redacted]

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